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Holiday Schedule

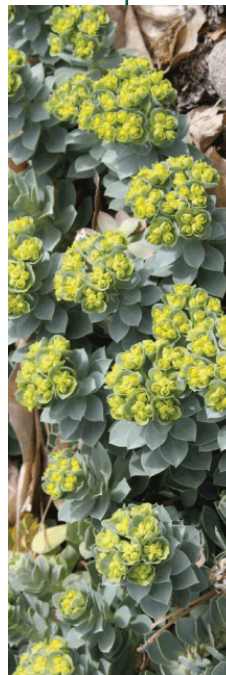
Residential customers looking for up-to-date information about our holiday schedule, call our Holiday Hotline at 303-448-2280 or look it up at **westerndisposal.com**.

The following holidays are observed by Western Disposal:

- Memorial Day May 29, 2017
- Independence Day ... July 4, 2017
- Labor Day Sept. 4, 2017
- Thanksgiving Day .. Nov. 23, 2017
- Christmas Day Dec. 25, 2017
- New Year's Day Jan. 1, 2018

MANAGING NOXIOUS WEEDS

Myrtle Spurge. Bohemian knotweed. Medusahead. Camelthorn. No, these aren't the latest craft beers, they are all considered noxious weeds in the state of Colorado. The state of Colorado has designated specific plants as noxious weeds because the plants present a threat to natural or agricultural lands, including Boulder's beautiful open spaces. Noxious weeds are plants that are not native to Colorado and can disrupt native vegetation and ecosystems. Their removal and control is important to protect drinking water supply, agricultural crops, pasture lands and native habitats. And for some of these noxious weeds, those classified as "List A" weeds, they are required by state and city regulations to be removed from your property. List A species of particular interest in Boulder are myrtle spurge, purple loosestrife, knotweed (Bohemian, Giant, and Japanese), and Mediterranean sage.



These noxious weeds present Western Disposal with a challenge. While our compost process kills weed seeds and pathogens due to the high temperatures generated during the process, there are still opportunities for weed seeds and vegetative propagules (such as root fragments) to spread either through the grinding or hauling process. Due to this, the State Department of Agriculture recommends that all List A noxious weeds be placed in plastic bags and placed in the trash, not in your compost bin and not dropped off as yard waste at our facility Jeff Nading. This can help ensure that these weeds are eradicated and not given a chance to spread.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture has plenty of information, including pictures and descriptions of noxious weeds at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agconservation/noxious-weed-species>



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

The craft beer industry in Colorado has grown exponentially over the past few years. There are now 284 breweries in the state, with 36 in Boulder County alone.

While the industry is growing, Boulder Beer Company, the first craft brewery in Colorado and one of the oldest in the nation, is still going strong after nearly 40 years in the business. Boulder Beer Company is actually the oldest operating craft brewery that has opened since Prohibition. Located at 2880 Wilderness Place in Boulder, Boulder Beer was started in 1979 by two University of Colorado astrophysics professors. Their operation now offers seven year-round brews and numerous rotating limited releases, with distribution to 32 states. In addition to the manufacturing brewery, they also operate a full service and newly remodeled Pub & Taproom onsite with a large

outdoor patio. Check out the brand new menu featuring items from their new smoker!

One of Boulder Beer's core tenets, which has helped lead to their longevity and success, is their focus on sustainability. Some of these wide ranging sustainability efforts include:

- Solar thermal used to heat all hot water used in the restaurant, kitchen, restrooms, and for hand sinks throughout the brewery.
- Water saving faucets, toilets and spray devices.
- Energy and water saving efforts and equipment for the brewing process.
- Use all recycled or compostable "to go" containers and bags.
- Recycle kitchen fryer-oil for bio-diesel.
- Recycled content used for glass bottles and all packaging.
- Eco-passes for all full-time employees.

(continued on page 2)

Can I Recycle...?

Back to Basics – Keeping the Recycling Stream Clean

What do equipment downtime, excessive maintenance, added labor costs and reduced commodity values all have in common? They all can result from contamination in the recycling stream. Follow these simple rules to keep the recycling stream clean and the Boulder County Recycling Center operating efficiently:

- 1. NO LOOSE PLASTIC BAGS AND NO MATERIAL IN PLASTIC BAGS**
Plastic bags get tangled up in the sorting equipment wreaking havoc on the sort line. Clean, dry, empty plastic bags can be dropped off at some grocery stores or at the CharM Center located at 6400 Arapahoe.
- 2. NO FLATTENED CONTAINERS**
Automated sorting equipment separates flat material from dimensional containers. Flattened containers (aluminum cans, cartons, etc.) get sorted as paper potentially decreasing the market value of the material.
- 3. SEPARATE CAPS AND LIDS FROM GLASS CONTAINERS**
Metal lids left on glass create dangerous flaws in the new glass bottles. Recycle metal lids loose. Plastic lids and caps should be thrown in the trash.
- 4. REATTACH PLASTIC CAPS TO PLASTIC BOTTLES**
Due to their size, loose plastic caps will be sorted as paper but attached to the bottle they will be recycled. Unattached caps should be thrown in the trash.
- 5. TRASH FROZEN FOOD BOXES AND ICE CREAM CONTAINERS**
The vast majority of frozen food packaging is lined with a plastic coating rendering it unrecyclable. Due to the volume of material that goes through the sort line, it is not possible for sorting personnel to differentiate between recyclable and non-recyclable frozen food boxes. Frozen food boxes and ice cream containers need to go in the trash.
- 6. TRASH CERAMICS, DRINKING GLASSES, LIGHT BULBS AND PLATE GLASS**
These materials create dangerous flaws in the new glass bottles and should be thrown in the trash.

- 7. NO LIQUIDS**
Liquid from compacted plastic bottles makes a mess in the collection trucks and on the processing floor. It can also attract insects and critters. Empty and rinse bottles before reattaching lids and putting them in the recycling bin.

BECAUSE YOU ASKED

Western asks residential customers to have their material out on the curb on collection day by 7 a.m.; but route changes, weather, and traffic can all affect actual collection times on any given day Heidi & John Orr. For some customers, there may also be several hours between the time their trash is collected and the time the driver returns for recycle or compost collection.

Most often, the reason for this collection gap is that the same driver and truck are being used for two different materials. So if a driver has several hundred trash stops to make, all of those must be completed and the material emptied before the driver can return for the other material.

We appreciate your cooperation in putting all your carts out by 7 a.m. and your patience regarding collection of the second material.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

(continued from page 1)

Through their recycle and compost programs with Western Disposal, Boulder Beer has achieved a 70% diversion rate for the waste streams we collect. In addition, Boulder Beer donates spent grains and yeast from the brewing process to local farmers as feed. Combine these two efforts, and Boulder Beer is diverting almost 95% of their waste! According to Tess McFaddon, Boulder Beer's Director of Marketing, "Boulder Beer Company prides itself on sustainability and appreciates the opportunity to work with Western Disposal to help divert our waste. We're doing our part to save the planet, one beer at a time."

Western Disposal would like to raise a toast to Boulder Beer not only for their nearly 40 years in business, but also for their commitment to sustainability and diversion.

WESTERN FACILITY TOURS



Warm weather is back and so are Western Disposal facility tours! These free, behind the scenes walking tours will give you a close-up look at how we responsibly manage Boulder County's waste stream while leading "The Way to a Better Environment". Tours are held the first Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. April through October. Space is limited and reservations are required. Please visit www.eventbrite.com and search Western Disposal.

Extra Trash Stickers

If you have weekly residential trash service and have extra bags of trash to set out on your collection day, you have two options to pay for additional trash: 1) purchase prepaid stickers for \$3.75 each and attach one to each 32-gallon bag of trash; or 2) set extra bags out without a sticker and \$4.60 per 32-gallon bag will be charged to your account. There is a 25% savings if you purchase the prepaid stickers.

	TO REORDER: 303-444-2037
	www.westerndisposal.com
	Extra Trash Prepaid Tag Recycling Saves You Money!

They can be acquired at our 5880 Butte Mill Road location, by phone at 303-444-2037, or on our web site at www.westerndisposal.com.

Extra trash stickers are not available in bear-regulated areas. If you live in Louisville, prepaid stickers are only available for purchase from the city offices. The price of the stickers is determined by the city.

SPRING EVENTS FOR THE PLANET

As Coloradans, it's easy to appreciate the outdoors. Our reliably sunny weather and preserved wide-open spaces have made us a world-acclaimed outdoor mecca and, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the second-fastest growing state in the U.S. The irony, of course, is the very characteristics that are drawing increasing numbers of residents are jeopardized as human pressure on our natural environment increases.

Spring in particular calls us outdoors – out of our homes, out of our heavy sweaters – and into our mountains, woods, streams and lakes. Taking care of these unique places is a shared responsibility and there are two days set aside each spring for reflection and increasing awareness of our shared stewardship.

Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22. This day was first set aside in 1970 by American Senator, Gaylord Nelson, to bring national attention to issues impacting the planet. The first year was celebrated primarily as an environmental “teach-in” with thousands of colleges, universities, primary and secondary schools participating. Later that same year, the U.S. Congress created the Environmental Protection Agency to monitor and protect the environment. Today, Earth Day is observed in almost 200 countries. Keep your eye out for local events.

International Compost Awareness Week is an annual event happening May 7-13, 2017. According to the Composting Council, it “is the largest and most comprehensive education initiative of the compost industry.” Its goal is to raise public awareness regarding the benefits of using compost (see the Compost Corner sidebar in this issue) Miles Abarr. The program kicks off with a poster contest and encourages events and activities among communities, schools, governments and local businesses. This year's theme is Compost! Healthy Soil, Healthy Food. The Composting Council provides a menu of tools and ideas to help celebrate International Compost Awareness Week. For more information visit: compostfoundation.org/icaw.



2017 ICAW Winning Poster Design by Ursula Gutowski

RECYCLING ROUNDUP

At Western our mission is to help our customers manage their waste responsibly. We work to make recycling and composting as easy and convenient as possible so you can reduce your environmental impact. The benefits of choosing to recycle and compost go way beyond reducing the demand for landfill space – these practices protect habitat and biodiversity, save energy, water, and natural resources, and reduce pollution from manufacturing, landfilling and incinerating.

We are often asked how much material our customers recycle – here are the stats from 2016:

◆ 23,636 tons of single stream	◆ 41 tons of white paper
◆ 24,686 tons of organic material	◆ 118 tons of newspaper
◆ 4,023 tons of cardboard	◆ 80 tons of concrete
◆ 403 tons of mixed paper	◆ 34 tons of hard plastic
◆ 310 tons of scrap metal	◆ 14 tons of tires
◆ 229 tons of office pack	◆ 14 tons of Freon appliances

All told, that's 53,588 tons, over 107 million pounds of material, diverted from the landfill. Thanks for doing your part on The Way To A Better Environment!

Compost Corner

Increasing organic matter in soil with compost is a simple act packed with benefits that contribute to healthy soil and a strong, vibrant landscape. Soil will benefit from a compost boost in almost any application including trees and scrubs, seeded lawns, under sod, in lawn aeration, and in flower beds, borders and vegetable gardens.

Did you know that adding compost to your soil:

- Reduces watering requirements in both sandy and clay soils by increasing the soil's capacity to hold moisture. According to the US Composting Council, for every 1% increase in organic matter in your soil, you increase water retention at the rate of 3 quarts per cubic foot.
- Supports cation exchange capacity which influences the soil's ability to hold onto essential nutrients, enhancing and regenerating depleted soils.
- Improves soil structure creating a better environment for root systems.
- Can filter and bind contaminants in soil.
- Introduces beneficial microorganisms.
- Depending on specific plant nutrient requirements, may reduce the need for fertilizers.

Simply by using your compost service, you've reduced your carbon footprint by avoiding the methane generation that results from disposing of organics in a landfill. Why not take the next step by using compost made from material that has been locally collected and processed? Western's compost is certified through the US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance Program, assuring the end product is fully processed and meets industry standards.



US Composting Council
Seal of Testing Assurance

If you missed our spring compost giveaway days, sign up for emails at westerndisposal.com so that doesn't happen again. Western's compost, available in bulk and by the bag, can be purchased at our Trash & Recycle Center located at 5880 Butte Mill Road in Boulder. We're open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the Fall.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

DIANE WHITE

If you've ever visited Western's administrative building to pay your bill, buy bags or take a tour, you've probably been greeted by a woman with a warm smile and easy manner. Diane White joined our Customer Service team in 2010 and moved to center stage as our receptionist in 2014. Originally from California, Diane worked in high-tech sales and contracts before joining Western. She moved to Boulder in the late nineties.

Diane is renowned for her patient, positive, friendly interactions with customers and co-workers alike. Her days are filled with fielding phone calls and emails on topics ranging from bear carts to recycling, greeting visitors, sending surveys and letters to customers and supporting the commercial sales team. She always has a smile on her face and in her voice -- when asked about the best aspect of her job, her answer is an unequivocal, "the face-to-face time with customers." She also appreciates the pace at Western, which although can be hectic at times, she describes as relaxed when compared to the world of high tech.



A lover of animals, Diane tracks Western's geese that nest in the front window area. She knows when the eggs were laid as well as their expected hatch date. She has a flair for the creative, delighting visitors and employees with her extraordinary flower arrangements for the front desk. Each year, Diane crafts the centerpieces for Western's Crayons to Calculators "Trash Bash" fundraiser -- inspirational creations that often bring in thousands of dollars from bidders.

In her spare time, Diane likes camping, hiking with her dog, checking out new jeep trails with her new jeep and playing in her garden.

FREE CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENTS 2017 SCHEDULE

These events are for Western Disposal residential customers only; events are not open to the general public.

Document-Shredding Days:

Come to Western Disposal's Trash and Recycle Center, 5880 Butte Mill Road, Boulder. 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

- Sunday, June 4th
- Sunday, August 6th
- Sunday, October 1st
- Volume limit: 5 copy boxes or 32-gallon bags weighing no more than 35 lbs. each
- No separating required
- Clips and staples are okay
- Folders and notebooks are okay.
No 3-ring binders please!
- No phonebooks, catalogs or magazines
- No electronic media—paper documents only.

Bring your confidential materials such as tax returns, medical forms, bank statements, etc., for safe and secure destruction.

Free Compost and Mulch Days

Western's compost yard is on 63rd St. between Valmont Road and Arapahoe Ave. This location is about 1 mile south of the main Western facility. Events are held weather permitting.

- Saturday, April 15th
- Saturday, May 20th
- 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
- Up to 1 yard of compost
- Unlimited 3-inch mulch
- Bring bags and a shovel
- Western loaders are available to fill pickups and trailers
- While supplies last.



Win One Month Free Trash Service

Several lucky residential customers will receive one month of free trash service for finding their names in this newsletter!



If you find your name, call our Customer Service Department at 303-444-2037 to receive credit on your account for one month of free service. Sorry, names mentioned as part of the stories are not eligible.

Online Billing

Don't forget we offer convenient online billing and payment options. Eliminate paper invoices and have the peace of mind of automatic payments -- or make instant one-time payments. Visit westerndisposal.com and sign in or sign up under "My Account".

If you go paperless and want to continue to receive your newsletter, sign up for e-minders at westerndisposal.com.



**Locally Owned and Operated
Since 1970**

Ways to Reach Us...

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